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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Shigeta Jr. et. al.

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Inventors: Shigeta Jr. et. al.

Title: **NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING
GROWTH FACTOR PROTEIN**

Examiner: Christopher Nichols

Group Art Unit: 1647

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Notice To Comply With Requirements For Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence And/Or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures mailed on January 6, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the third paragraph on page 3 of the specification as follows.

In one embodiment, the present invention provides an isolated growth factor polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1B (SEQ ID NO: 02). In one aspect of this embodiment, the isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) a nucleic acid sequence of at least 90 nucleotides that is essentially identical to a linear sequence of comparable length contained in the sequence shown in Figure 1B (SEQ ID NO:02); (b) a nucleic acid sequence of at least 90 nucleotides encoding a polypeptide that is essentially identical to a linear sequence of at least 30 amino acids contained in the sequence shown in Figure 1A (SEQ ID NO:01); and (c) a complement of (a) or (b). In another aspect, the isolated